



***Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas R. Capel – Command Sergeant Major  
U.S. Army Europe***

Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas R. Capel, a native of Ellerbe, N.C., graduated from Richmond High School and attended Richmond Community College. Command Sgt. Maj. Capel entered military service on Oct. 26, 1977 and completed basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C., and the 11B (Infantry) Advanced Individual Training at Fort Benning, Ga. Command Sgt. Maj. Capel's first assignment was with the 82nd Airborne Division, 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment.

Command Sgt. Maj. Capel has had a diverse career with assignments and positions from Fort Kobbe, Panama, serving as an infantry squad leader, to Fort Jackson, S.C., serving as a senior drill sergeant. Command Sgt. Maj. Capel reported to Fort Bragg, N.C., in 1987 and assumed duty as an Instructor and later as a senior instructor with the XVIII Airborne Corps Noncommissioned Officer Academy. In 1989, he continued his duties at Fort Bragg as a platoon sergeant and operations sergeant with the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division. In 1993, CSM Capel was assigned to the U.S. Army Europe's 7th Headquarters Brigade as the operations sergeant and then returned to Fort Bragg, N.C., to A Company, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment as the first sergeant and later as the first sergeant for the Headquarters and Headquarter Company, 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division. In 1998, he was assigned to the 1st Region ROTC as the Military SCI Instructor at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Ga. Command Sgt. Maj. Capel was further assigned to the Task Force Mechanized Battalion as an Active Component/Reserve Component Battalion Command Sergeant Major. In September 2001, Command Sgt. Maj. Capel was reassigned to Fort Bragg, N.C., where he served as an operations sergeant major and as a battalion and brigade command sergeant major in the 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division. He was selected in May 2006 as the 22nd command sergeant major of the 82nd Airborne Division. Command Sgt. Maj. Capel has deployed five times, including one deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as the battalion command sergeant major of the 1st Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment and two deployments to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as the Combined Joint Task Force 82/RC East command sergeant major.

Command Sgt. Maj. Capel has held every duty position within the scope of his primary career field: rifleman; team leader; squad leader; drill sergeant, NCO Education System instructor; operations sergeant; ROTC instructor; first sergeant, and battalion, regimental and division command sergeant major.

Command Sgt. Maj. Capel has earned numerous awards, including the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal (3rd oak leaf cluster), the Meritorious Service Medal (3rd oak leaf cluster), the Army Commendation Medal (9th oak leaf cluster), the National Defense Service Medal, the NCO Professional Development Ribbon (with numeral 4), the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Saudi Arabia Kuwait Liberation Medal, the Kuwait Liberation Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Drill Sergeant Badge, the Combat Infantry Badge (2nd award), and the Master Parachutist Badge.

Command Sgt. Maj. Capel is married to a retired sergeant major. The Capels have three children.